

16 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL GROGAN

Subject: Proposed Newsletter

Herewith, before I forget them, some ideas about the Newsletter proposal that occurred to me in connection with the meeting on the subject that was cancelled for this afternoon.

1. It is possible to read between the lines of your file on the subject of the newsletter that a lot of people have thought from time to time that the "field" needs something from home that it isn't getting. In general, this need seems to be for information regarding the Agency itself. There have been differences of opinion on what to do about it. Whereas Kirk recently indicated that he thought a very generalized communication, presumably from the DCI, would best serve the purpose, [REDACTED] thought, in 1952, that a highly classified listing of important items taken from the IAC minutes and the Director's Log would be required. What Chat [REDACTED] had in mind looked like something between these two. Although the basis of most of the original proposals seems to have been a digest acquired from individual Deputies, Kirk opposes any such thing.

2. All this, it seems to me, deals with "what to do" and "how to do it" but leaves still to be answered the question of "why do it." To me it seems premature to start discussing what you are going to do before you are sure whether or not solid reasons exist for doing it at all. I don't doubt for a moment that such reasons exist; if they did not, the proposal would not have been made in the first place, and certainly the DCI would not, on occasion, have authorized something like what was proposed.

3. Nevertheless, it seems to me that a more intelligent analysis of what to do would be possible if it were first officially decided what it was that we wanted to accomplish. For example, the prepared communication to be primarily a project aimed at improving morale in the "field"? Or morale at home? Or both? Or neither? If morale is the object, exactly what is meant by "morale"? Is morale bad, and if so in what respects and where? If bad morale is not the problem, perhaps it is lack of information. In that case, is it to be assumed that present news services furnished to the field are inadequate? Or are these services redundant in view of a desire for inside news about the Agency. If so, it might help to find out whether the desire for Agency information arises primarily from curiosity or from a real need for particular types of information. To put the question more broadly: Exactly what condition, if any, exists at what points that needs correction?

4. Having tackled the main questions and established a basis for action, it seems to me that you would be able, with relative ease, to decide such issues as: What type of communication or other device would best solve the

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problem as formulated? What degree of security risk would be justified by the importance of the purpose as formulated?

5. If the answer to the first question were a newsletter type of communication, I should next want to make a survey of some sort, in terms of the formulated purpose, to find out what sorts of information, news, or even gossip would be appropriate for the communication. This could be done in Washington through studies of reports and interviews with people; or by a field trip as suggested in 1952, or both.

6. Once you knew what you were trying to accomplish and had determined the best means of accomplishing it, you would be in position to make decisions on such matters as format, distribution, periodicity, and classification. Then you could get down to work.

7. Unless something like this were done, it seems to me that the chances would be good of spending considerable time in comparatively fruitless arguments, and of issuing prematurely a publication that might be found wanting after a fair trial, or might even do more harm than good.

 STATINTL

Contribution to Security Speech Contributed by Colonel Grogan at Insistence  
of General Cabell 12/28/54

Danger to security exists in the highest degree in our social and fraternal "school tie" and old friendships. It is human nature to rely on some old friends for advice and trust them with confidences. Some talk to old friends and old associates of their most intimate thoughts, and daily actions and activities. When you enter CIA employment you are dedicated to protecting our Country and such confidences with old friends must not occur. You may not discuss classified CIA work with any old friends or associates no matter how close your relationships. America's security depends on your behavior. In Washington and other large cities the cocktail party is a source of news gathering and intelligence gathering. Alcohol, as well as a desire to impress someone, to be a big-shot, loosens tongues. You cannot be too discreet in what you discuss at such social affairs. They are a great worry to our security experts. You must never discuss CIA or its work or your work or anyone else's work in CIA at these social events or with your closest non-CIA friends -- not even with your own family. I cannot stress this too much. It is vital.

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